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Letter dated 8 January 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour of writing to you in your capacity as the President of the Security Council for the month of January 2007 and would like to request your kind assistance in circulating as a document of the Council the statement of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Georgia dated 5 January 2007 regarding the attack on the Georgian Interior Ministry's checkpoint near the village of Ganmukhuri, Zugdidi district, Georgia.

(*Signed*) Irakli **Alasania**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-20529 (E) 100107

Annex to the letter dated 8 January 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Georgia

Pre-dawn attack from the Gali district on the Georgian Interior Ministry's checkpoint near the village of Ganmukhuri, Zugdidi district, on 5 January 2007 caused the loss of a human life from the Georgian side.

The attack can be seen as yet another link in a chain of criminal acts taking place recently in the Gali district. Of special concern is the fact that this attack occurred in the security zone controlled by the Russian peacekeepers, who took no trouble to prevent it. The consequence is a gross violation of the ceasefire regime between the conflicting sides stemming from the Russian peacekeepers' failure to comply with their principal mandated obligation.

Besides, in this case the decisions of the United Nations Security Council, in particular resolution 1716 (2006), which urges both parties to comply fully with previous agreements regarding ceasefire and non-use of violence, were completely neglected.

The developments of the last few days have clearly pointed to the righteousness of the Georgian side's proposals to modify the peace operation format and to deploy a more effective and impartial contingent in the region.

The Georgian side considers this incident as a carefully planned and deliberate provocation aimed at further escalating the tension in the conflict zone that, very likely, may lead to irreparable consequences.

Having noted that, the Georgian side urges the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia to investigate this incident, establish facts and take all necessary measures to avoid recurrence of such violence in the future.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Georgia strongly condemns this criminal act and calls on the international community, including the Secretary-General's Group of Friends, to appropriately assess the provocative activity taking place in the region and take due action on it.

Tbilisi, 5 January 2007